

What is Claimed:

1. A carrier configured to hold a container having a door mounted for reciprocation between opened and closed positions, said carrier comprising:

a body adapted to receive the container; and

an elongate arm coupled to said body for reciprocal extension along an axis of said arm between an extended position and a retracted position with respect to said body, said arm being adapted for engagement with the door of the container, and said reciprocal extension of said arm being adapted to reciprocate the door of the container in the direction of said axis between the opened and closed positions.
2. The carrier of claim 1 further comprising a flexible member coupled to said arm, wherein said arm is reciprocally extended or retracted along said axis by a tension applied to said flexible member.
3. The carrier of claim 1 further comprising a biasing member coupled to said arm to bias said arm toward said extended position or said retracted position, wherein said arm is reciprocally extended or retracted along said axis against said bias of said biasing member.
4. The carrier of claim 3 wherein said biasing member comprises a spring.
5. The carrier of claim 3 wherein said biasing member is coupled to said arm to bias said arm toward said extended position, and wherein said arm is retracted along said axis against said bias of said biasing member.
6. The carrier of claim 2 further comprising a lever pivotally coupled to said body, wherein tension is applied to said flexible member by actuation of said lever.

7. The carrier of claim 6 further comprising a locking bracket coupled to said body for reciprocation between a locked position, wherein said locking bracket substantially prevents said lever from pivoting with respect to said body, and an unlocked position, wherein said lever may pivot with respect to said body.

8. The carrier of claim 1 wherein the body comprises a body portion configured to support the container and a hood pivotally coupled to said body portion to pivot between a closed position wherein said hood restrains the container within the body portion and an open position wherein the container may be removed from the body portion.

9. The carrier of claim 8 further comprising a lock positioned for locking said hood in said closed position with respect to said body portion.

10. The carrier of claim 9 wherein said lock is lockable and unlockable by use of a key.

11. The carrier of claim 8 wherein said arm extends from said hood for reciprocal movement with respect to said hood.

12. The carrier of claim 11 further comprising a biasing member coupled to said arm and to said hood to bias said arm toward said extended position or said retracted position with respect to said hood, wherein said arm is reciprocally extended or retracted along said axis against said bias of said biasing member.

13. The carrier of claim 1 further comprising a locking member for locking said arm in said retracted position.

14. The carrier of claim 13 wherein said arm has a shoulder portion which is engaged by said locking member to lock said arm in said retracted position.

15. The carrier of claim 14 wherein said locking member is coupled to said body for reciprocal movement between an engaged position in which said arm is locked in said retracted position and a disengaged position in which said arm is free to move between said extended and retracted positions.

16. A carrier configured to hold a container having a door mounted for reciprocation between opened and closed positions, said carrier comprising:

a body adapted to receive the container, said body comprising a body portion configured to support the container and a hood pivotally coupled to said body portion to pivot between a closed position wherein said hood restrains the container within said body portion and an open position wherein the container may be removed from the body portion;

an elongate arm coupled to said body for reciprocal extension along an axis of said arm between an extended position and a retracted position with respect to said body, said arm extending from said hood for reciprocal movement with respect to said hood, said arm being adapted for engagement with the door of the container, and said reciprocal extension of said arm being adapted to reciprocate the door of the container in the direction of said axis between the opened and closed positions;

a flexible member coupled to said arm, wherein said arm is reciprocally extended or retracted along said axis by a tension applied to said flexible member; and

a biasing member coupled to said arm to bias said arm toward said extended position, wherein said arm is retracted along said axis against said bias of said biasing member.

17. A carrier configured to hold a container having a door mounted for reciprocation between opened and closed positions, said carrier comprising:

a body portion at least partially defining a cavity sized to receive the container;

a hood coupled to the body portion and configured to extend over at least a portion of said cavity and to extend over at least a portion of the container when the container is received in said cavity of said body portion; and

an arm coupled to said hood for reciprocal movement with respect to said hood, said arm being adapted for engagement with the door of the container, and said reciprocal movement of said arm being adapted to reciprocate the door of the container between the opened and closed positions.

18. The carrier of claim 17, wherein the reciprocal movement of the arm is along an axis of the arm.

19. The carrier of claim 17, wherein said hood is coupled for pivotal movement with respect to said body portion.

20. The carrier of claim 17, further comprising a locking member for locking said arm in a retracted position.

21. The carrier of claim 17, further comprising a lock positioned for locking said hood in a closed position with respect to said body portion.

22. The carrier of claim 17, further comprising:

a lever coupled to said body portion and to said arm; and

a locking bracket coupled to said body portion for reciprocation between a locked position, wherein said locking bracket prevents movement of said lever with respect to said body portion, and an unlocked position, wherein said lever may move with respect to said body portion.

23. A carrier configured to hold a container having a door mounted for reciprocation between opened and closed positions, said carrier comprising:

a body portion at least partially defining a cavity sized to receive the container, said body portion having a substantially hollow wall portion;

an arm coupled for reciprocal movement with respect to said body portion, said arm being adapted for engagement with the door of the container, and said reciprocal movement of said arm being adapted to reciprocate the door of the container between the opened and closed positions; and

a flexible member coupled to said arm to facilitate said reciprocal movement of said arm, said flexible member extending through an interior of said hollow wall portion of said body portion.

24. The carrier of claim 23, wherein the flexible member includes a cable.

25. The carrier of claim 23 further comprising a locking member for locking said arm in a retracted position.

26. The carrier of claim 23 further comprising:

a hood coupled to the body portion and configured to extend over at least a portion of said cavity and to extend over at least a portion of the container when the container is received in said cavity of said body portion; and

a lock positioned for locking said hood in a closed position with respect to said body portion.

27. The carrier of claim 23 further comprising:

a lever coupled to said body portion and to said arm; and

a locking bracket coupled to said body portion for reciprocation between a locked position, wherein said locking bracket prevents movement of said lever with respect to said body portion, and an unlocked position, wherein said lever may move with respect to said body portion.

28. A carrier configured to hold a container having a door mounted for reciprocation between closed and opened positions, said carrier comprising:

a body portion at least partially defining a cavity sized to receive the container;

a hood coupled to the body portion and configured to extend over at least a portion of the container;

an arm coupled to said hood for reciprocal movement with respect to said hood between an extended position when the door of the container is in the

closed position and a non-extended position when the door of the container is in the opened position, said arm being adapted to reciprocate the door of the container between the closed and opened positions; and

a spring coupled to the hood and to the arm for biasing the arm toward the extended position.

29. The carrier of claim 28, wherein the spring is a coiled spring.

30. The carrier of claim 28, further comprising a locking member for locking said arm in a retracted position.

31. The carrier of claim 28, further comprising a lock positioned for locking said hood in a closed position with respect to said body portion.

32. The carrier of claim 28, further comprising:

a lever coupled to said body portion and to said arm; and

a locking bracket coupled to said body portion for reciprocation between a locked position, wherein said locking bracket prevents movement of said lever with respect to said body portion, and an unlocked position, wherein said lever may move with respect to said body portion.

33. A carrier configured to hold a container having a door mounted for reciprocation between opened and closed positions, said carrier comprising:

a body portion adapted to receive the container;

a rotatable hood configured to cover at least a portion of the container when the rotatable hood is in a first position; and

an arm coupled for reciprocal movement with respect to said rotatable hood along an axis of said arm, said arm having a first portion coupled to the rotatable hood and a second portion angled with respect to the first portion and oriented for engagement with a surface of the door when the rotatable hood is in the first position.

34. The carrier of claim 33, wherein the second portion of said arm comprises a pin.

35. The carrier of claim 33, wherein the second portion of said arm is substantially perpendicular to the first portion of said arm.

36. The carrier of claim 33 further comprising a locking member for locking said arm in a retracted position.

37. The carrier of claim 33 further comprising a lock positioned for locking said hood in a closed position with respect to said body portion.

38. The carrier of claim 33 further comprising:

a lever coupled to said body portion and to said arm; and

a locking bracket coupled to said body portion for reciprocation between a locked position, wherein said locking bracket prevents movement of said lever with respect to said body portion, and an unlocked position, wherein said lever may move with respect to said body portion.

39. A carrier configured to hold a container having a door mounted for reciprocation between opened and closed positions, said carrier comprising:

a body portion adapted to receive the container, said body portion being formed from rotationally-molded plastic;

a hood coupled to the body portion and configured to extend over at least a portion of the container; and

an arm coupled for reciprocal movement with respect to said hood, said arm being adapted for engagement with the door of the container, and said reciprocal movement of said arm being adapted to reciprocate the door of the container between the opened and closed positions.

40. The carrier of claim 39, wherein said body portion has a substantially hollow wall portion.

41. The carrier of claim 40, further comprising a flexible member coupled to said arm to facilitate said reciprocal movement of said arm.

42. The carrier of claim 41, said flexible member extending through an interior of said hollow wall portion of said body portion.